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UNCLAS DUBLIN 000406

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: IRELAND MAY MAKE TOKEN CONTRIBUTION TO NEW
EURASIA FOUNDATION IN RUSSIA

REF: SECSTATE 44003

On March 23, Post delivered reftel talking points to Austin Gormley, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) First Secretary for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

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On April 6, Gormley responded that Development Corporation Ireland (DCI, the development agency within DFA) "did not see a good fit" between its Russian assistance program and contribution requests for the Eurasia Foundation. Specifically, DCI believed that the Foundation's scope was too expansive. Ireland recognized, however, that the Foundation's objectives were laudable and was prepared to consider a token contribution, perhaps in the USD 20,000 range. He noted that Ireland would "leave the door open" to this possibility pending further information from High Commissioner Solana.

KENNY